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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Introduces New Measures to Fight Destructive Beetle

The City of London announced the steps that homeowners and City staff must take to mitigate damage caused by the Emerald Ash Borer, a wood-boring beetle that has already killed thousands of ash trees in Southwestern Ontario.

"Everyone needs to do their part to protect the trees in their yards and neighbourhoods," said Ivan Listar, Urban Forester for the City of London. "Residents in a quarantined area must take all ash and firewood to the Oxford Ash Processing Depot or keep it on their property. Anything else is a violation of quarantine and puts nearby trees at risk."

The City explained the procedures it is using for the safe collection and disposal of infested and at-risk materials. City Forestry and Environmental Programs staff were on-hand to answer questions and explain how residents can recognize ash on their property, spot infestations, and safely manage their yard materials. This information is also available in an illustrative guide that is being sent to all quarantined residents in June.

"Property owners should use this guide to get to know the trees on their property and manage their yard waste safely," said Jay Stanford, Division Manager of Environmental Programs and Customer Relations. "The support of residents is the single most important factor for preventing the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer and all of London is counting on you to do your part."

The Emerald Ash Borer is an alien invasive pest that originates in eastern Asia. It first appeared in Michigan in 2002 and was discovered in London in November 2006. The Federal Government's Canadian Food and Inspection Agency is responsible for the prevention of pest infestations. The Corporation of the City of London takes direction from CFIA on these matters and acts accordingly.

For more information about the Emerald Ash Borer go to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website or call the CFIA's Toll Free number: 1-866-463-6017. There is also a frequently asked questions page at www.london.ca.